

NEW RECORDS OF BUTTERFLIES FROM NORTH ANDROS, BAHAMAS¹

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ABSTRACT: Seven previously unrecorded butterfly species are reported from North Andros, Bahamas. These are: *Calisto sibylla* Bates (Satyridae); *Eunica monima* Stoll, *Eunica tatila tatilista* Kaye, and *Vanessa atalanta rubria* Fruhstorfer (Nymphalidae); *Hemiargus ceraunus ceraunus* Fabricius and *Brephidium exilis isophthalma* Herrich-Schäffer (Lycaenidae); and *Eurema nicippe* Cramer (Pieridae). These seven new records increase to 60 the number of butterfly species now known from North Andros.

The first comprehensive list of butterflies for Andros Island, Bahamas, was provided by Clench (1977). Additional collecting on North Andros by the authors during 1978 (DJH) and 1983 (JWP) has added seven new species to the North Andros fauna. The following are accounts of these new Andros records, with notes on locality, dates of capture, habitat and behavior. To conform with Clench (1977), the sequence of taxa in Riley (1975) is followed. Specimens are deposited in the authors' personal collections; a voucher of *Eunica tatila tatilista* taken by JWP is deposited in the Carnegie Museum of Natural History (Pittsburgh) and vouchers of the four species collected by DJH have been deposited in both the Carnegie Museum of Natural History and the Allyn Museum of Entomology (Sarasota).

Satyridae

Calisto sibylla Bates

Two females and a male of this butterfly were collected on 6 June 1978 near the town of Red Bay. The adults were local in distribution and were only seen in a narrow strip of shrubby vegetation, about 15 meters long, that bordered the road between the shore and the settlement of Red Bay. The butterflies flew close to the ground, usually underneath the shrubs. Adults appeared in the open only when visiting the flowers of *Cordia bahamensis* Urban (Boraginaceae). All specimens were collected while visiting these flowers. Other shrubs along this strip included *Forestiera segregata*, *Metopium toxiferum*, *Jacquinia* sp. and *Coccoloba* sp. Beyond these shrubs was a plain dominated by sedges, with some grasses and scattered palmettos. During brief visits to this site on 9 and 13 June 1978, two additional specimens, a female and a male, were also taken. *Eup-*

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toieta claudia Cramer, *Dianesia carteri* Holland, *Strymon martialis* Herrich-Schäffer, *Eurema messalina blakei* Maynard, *Pyrrhocalles antiqua eleutherae* Bates and *Wallengrenia misera* Lucas were also found at this locality.

Red Bay is the only settlement on the western coast of Andros, and the only locality accessible there by road. *C. sibylla* may be more widely distributed on this side of the island, but the region is poorly collected. Aside from these specimens, the species is known only from the type, collected on New Providence in 1894, and a pair collected by Clench at Yeho Pineyard, South Andros, in 1974.

Nymphalidae

Eunica monima Stoll
Eunica tatila tatilista Kaye

A single male *Eunica monima* was taken near Fresh Creek, on 12 July 1983, along with five males and two females of *Eunica tatila*. The butterflies were captured on or near the vicinity of overripe fruit on a species of *Ficus* (probably *F. citrifolia*), which was growing near a commercial establishment known as the "Androsia Factory". The tree was located along the edge of a rather dense thicket of small trees representing numerous species. Most of the butterflies were high in the tree (5-8m), and were easily flushed from the fruit on which they were feeding. Some returned to the upper reaches of the crown while others would fly to lower branches on the tree within netting distance. Almost all returned to the *Ficus* when disturbed, and attempts to locate these species on nearby trees, which included a blooming *Acacia*, were unsuccessful. At least two dozen *E. tatila* were sighted on the *Ficus* over the period of about 45 min at midday. The habits of *E. monima* were indistinguishable from those of *E. tatila*, and very likely the capture of only a single *E. monima* in association with the *Ficus* fruit is not a true indication of its abundance in the area.

E. tatila was placed on Clench's hypothetical list for Andros on the basis of a book illustration. The collections listed above confirm its occurrence on North Andros. *E. tatila* and *E. monima* apparently are very rare in the Bahamas; the only other records are from San Salvador (Elliot *et al.*, 1980).

Vanessa atalanta rubria Fruhstorfer

A single worn female was taken at Stafford Creek, on 11 July 1983 in a live trap baited with a two-year-old mixture of fermented peaches, molasses, and brown sugar. *V. atalanta* has been reported from Bermuda and as a stray on Cuba, Jamaica and Hispanola (Riley, 1975). Owing to the worn condition of the individual taken on North Andros, it is very possible that this specimen was a stray from the U.S. mainland.

Lycaenidae

Hemiargus ceraunus ceraunus Fabricius

Six adults were collected in a weedy field adjacent to the San Andros Airport on 7 June 1978. This species has been recorded for South Andros.

Brephidium exilis isophthalma Herrich-Schäffer

Ten adults were collected in a low area with white mangrove near Love Hill on 1 and 8 June 1978. They were not numerous, and were closely associated with patches of *Salicornia* sp. (Chenopodiaceae), a succulent herb which could possibly serve as a larval host plant at this locality.

Pieridae

Eurema nicippe Cramer

This species was frequently encountered in a field near the San Andros Airport, where *H. ceraunus* was also taken. Two females were collected on 31 May 1978, and seven additional adults were taken on 7 June 1978. These specimens confirm Clench's sightings of this species on North Andros.

These seven new records increase to 60 the number of species known on North Andros, and raises Clench's total for all Andros from 58 to 63. Andros has more recorded butterflies than any other island in the Bahama archipelago, 10 more than the 53 species recorded for New Providence (West, 1966).

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